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News Release

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St. Paul hosts human trafficking conference

Event brings together law enforcement, service providers together to address the problem

The crime of human trafficking is often a hidden one that leaves a damaging impact on its victims. Offenders use of force or coercion to involve their victims. Law enforcement and service providers have been working together to rescue victims and hold offenders accountable, and they invite anyone who wants to learn more to attend an upcoming conference in St. Paul.

The 2008 Human Trafficking Conference will be held Sept. 23-24 at the St. Paul RiverCentre, and will focus on how to recognize the crime of human trafficking in the community and how to combat the problem. It is sponsored by the St. Paul Police Department, the Gerald D. Vick Human Trafficking Task Force and the United States Attorney's Office.

A variety of topics will be covered, including how to define the crime of human trafficking, how to identify victims of human trafficking, and why community collaboration is essential to address the problem. Instructors will be on hand to show why law enforcement and service providers must work together in a victim-centered approach when investigating and combating human trafficking. Attendees will learn how multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional task forces operate and learn from case studies on successful investigations.

Keynote speakers include Mark Kappelhoff of the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. District Court Judge John Tunheim, as well as several victims of labor trafficking who will share their stories about their respective cases, rescues and recoveries.

The conference will also discuss the 2008 report on human trafficking by the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, which is tentatively scheduled for release later this month.

Registration is \$100, which includes lunch and refreshments on both days, as well as course materials and handouts. You can register online at www.stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=634 and click online registration. For more information, contact Meghan Quinn at 651-265-6920 or at Meghan.Quinn@ci.stpaul.mn.us